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Examiner Matthew O. Savage at Facsimile No. 703-572-9306, Commissioner for
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date: December 29, 2003.
Dated December 29, 2003 Signature: [Signature]
(David J. Rinkert)

Docket No.: HHI-031US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

In re Patent Application of:
Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890588

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: Matthew O. Savage

For: **FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE
CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH
ADDITIONAL RETAINER**

DEC 29 2003
OFFICIAL

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2003, the response period of which is extended to Monday, December 29, 2003 by the accompanying Request for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

01/20/2004 RHOLLAND 00000001 120080 09890588
01 FC:1251 110.00 DA